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(DO/EO/US)

Applicant: Suner *et al.*

Art Unit: Unassigned

Serial No.: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filing Date: Herewith

Title: Undifferentiated Erythroid Cells and Their
Use in Ligand Binding Assays

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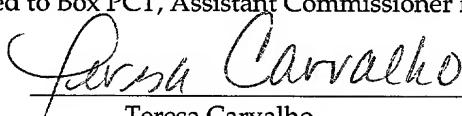
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

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of mail deposit



Teresa Carvalho

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the substantive examination of the above-identified application,
kindly amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 4, 5, 14, 16, 18, 21, 24, and 26, as described below. In addition, attached to the end of this Preliminary Amendment is a marked-up version of the amended claims, marked to show all of the changes relative to the previous version.

1. The use of an erythroid cell which is substantially undifferentiated, but which is capable of expressing a heterologous protein under the control of a globin promoter thereof, in an assay in which said protein interacts with an endogenous signalling cascade of said cell and said interaction is detected.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein said erythroid cell is a murine erythroleukaemia (MEL) cell, rat erythroleukaemia cell (REL) or a human erythroleukaemia cell (HEL).

3. The use according to claim 2 wherein the erythroid cell is a murine erythroleukaemia cell.

4. The use according to claim 1 wherein the said globin promoter is the β -globin promoter.

5. An erythroid cell which is substantially undifferentiated but which is capable of expressing proteins under the control of a globin promoter thereof at levels which allow use in accordance with claim 1.

6. An erythroid cell according to claim 5 which comprises a cell as deposited at the European Collection of Cell Cultures under Accession number 99012801.

7. A method of producing an erythroid cell according to claim 5 which method comprises maintaining growing uninduced erythroid cells in culture for a sufficient period of time and isolating a subclone which expresses protein under the control of a globin promoter.

8. A method for determining the interaction between a receptor protein and a potential agonist or antagonist therefor, said method comprising incubating a cell as defined above which has been transformed so that it expresses said receptor protein as a G-protein coupled receptor, either